

BILL ANALYSIS

BY: Montford

S.B. 324
Enrolled

BACKGROUND:

The feasibility of federal water projects is based upon various technical analyses performed by federal agencies. The Texas Water Development Board (board) is responsible for long-range water resource planning. Since federal water projects have potential impact on state water resource planning, it is felt that the board is the appropriate agency to review such projects.

Local sponsors are currently designated by the board for federal water projects. These sponsors contract with federal water agencies for participation in such projects, and commonly obtain water rights from the Texas Water Commission (commission) for storage in some of these projects. Since the commission issues these permits, it is appropriate for the commission to also designate local sponsors. There is often competition for such designation.

PURPOSE:

As proposed, S.B. 324 assigns the responsibility of reviewing federal water project feasibility determinations to the Texas Water Development Board. This bill also requires local sponsorship of federal water projects to be determined by the Texas Water Commission.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY:

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS:

SECTION 1. Amends Subsections(b)-(f), Section 12.051, Water Code, by substituting the Texas Water Development Board (board) for the Texas Water Commission (commission) when determining the feasibility of a federal water development project.

SECTION 2. Amends Subsections (a), (d), (e), and (g), Section 16.092, Water Code, as follows:

Sec. 16.092. (a) Substitutes the executive director of the commission for the executive administrator of the board as designator of the cooperating local sponsor of a federal water development project.

(d),(e), and (g) Substitute the commission for the board when determining designation of a cooperating local sponsor.

SECTION 3. Effective date. September 1, 1987.

SECTION 4. Emergency clause.